



SCHOOL INFORMATION

Table with contact information for Community Montessori Office, including address, phone numbers, and web/email addresses.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Calendar of school events from February 15 to April 29, including CSAP test windows, holidays, and conferences.

SCHOOL GOALS: MID-YEAR PROGRESS REPORT

School Goals: Mid-year Progress Report; February 11, 2011

SMART Goals (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Results-based, Time-bound)

SMART Goal for Achievement: We will increase the median growth scores in writing on the CSAP assessments from 47-55; we will increase the weighted index for 3rd graders in writing on the CSAP assessments from 86 to 91, by spring of 2011.

SMART Goal for Equity: We will increase median growth scores in writing on the CSAP assessments for ELLS from 27.5 to 49; overall weighted index scores for ELLs from 44 to 50; and median growth scores for special education students from 45.2 to 50, by spring of 2011.

SMART Goal for Climate: We will increase favorable response on the climate survey in the areas of physical aggression (#30, 6), hurtful language (#12, 15) and exclusion (#3, 21); we will gather baseline data on specific incident details (event, date, time, resolution), by spring of 2011.

Each goal plan consists of strategies that will address practice, policy or programming through action in three domains: the classroom, the school organization/design, and parent/community partnerships. Each teacher aligns classroom and personal goals with our all-school goals. SAC-PTA helps to monitor goal progress and also aligns fundraising and community support with our CM school improvement plan (SIP). Progress is reported on goals in November, February and at the end of the school year. If you have questions, do not hesitate to discuss our school goals with your child's teacher, SAC-PTA leaders, or with the principal.

Achievement: All classrooms are writing daily and throughout curriculum subject areas. The program 'Being a Writer' is well-utilized for content and voice and is being supplemented with targeted lessons on mechanics and conventions. The Montessori curriculum, the prior year's CSAP results, writing rubrics, and the district "Curriculum Essentials Document" serve to drive and differentiate instruction. Students continue to write in their letter journals and notebooks in addition to edited works and for a variety of audiences. Homework is aligned with writing target areas. Teachers share best writing lessons and analyze children's writing samples to determine level of proficiency and next steps for individual student growth. Parents are involved in a variety of ways. Primary teachers presented to parents on Montessori education in September. 80% of parents attended Parent Visiting Night and 100% of parents attended parent-teacher conferences in October to learn about Montessori Lessons and their student's work in the classroom. Staff presented an information night for parents of children who have a primary language other than English in their home, in November. In January-February teachers have created writing rubrics to make expectations clearer to students, teachers and parents. Exemplars and rubrics have been included with homework assignments. Teachers have renewed their focus on writing inter-rater reliability and communication to students and parents about what is expected for proficient or advanced scores in grade level writing samples.

Equity: Teachers are planning lessons closely aligned with the district grade level Curriculum Essentials Document (CED) expectations. Teachers differentiate instruction through the Montessori Model. Writing interventions occur with the classroom teacher and with support specialists. Instruction is targeted and progress closely monitored. Two thirds of classroom teachers have obtained their ESL endorsement in addition to Montessori and CO state licensing. Teachers regularly shelter instruction and support language acquisition through building vocabulary and background knowledge. 80% of CM teachers have participated in a district equity cohort. From August through February teachers have collaborated at levels meetings three times a month and attended district in-service sessions in backward design, progress monitoring, RtI (tiered response to intervention), sheltered instruction in writing, math assessments, and number sense work. Thanks to the passage of the 3A mill levy, some funds have been restored to schools. We have been able to increase some interventionist time from three days to five days per week. Teachers meet weekly with support staff to determine push-in, pull-out or co-teaching strategies for students struggling on specific skills. DRA2 assessments for targeted students were completed by February 1st to insure monitoring of continuous and adequate progress.

Climate: Lessons continue in Montessori Grace and Courtesy, Restorative Justice, the anti-bias curriculum, conflict resolution, social skills, and peer mediation. Staff continues to participate in Nurtured Heart Professional Development. All staff spent a half day learning principles and practice on September 20th. Many parents have purchased the nurtured heart book, All Children Flourishing and some parents are attending a 4-week parenting class. The consistent language used at CM was discussed and passed out at Back to School Night and at new parent coffees. NHA information appears in school and classroom newsletters. The Positive Behavior Support (PBS) "Code of Respect" has been introduced to all children. Posters clearly identifying our Community Montessori Code of Respect are displayed throughout the school. Ask your child about the Community Montessori Code of Respect: Respect Self, Respect Others, Respect the Environment. Desirable character traits have been identified and distributed to all staff and are communicated to parents in newsletters.

Please celebrate and articulate to your student when you see evidence of **respect, consideration, self-control, generosity, patience, cooperation, risk-taking, courtesy, independence, and tolerance**. Everything we strive to do and be as individuals, and as a community, reflect this code of respect and these positive attributes.

A key strategy this year to extend our peaceful environment to less structured times of the day has been to reduce the number of children in the lunchroom and on the playground at any one time. We are happy to report that we do observe a difference now that we have switched our lower and upper elementary scheduling. Yes, we know that the children miss each other sometimes, but supervision is much more realistic and has created a positive experience for more children than in the past. Elementary supervisors meet on a monthly basis and have collected specific data to discuss with principal and teachers. At the primary level the parent volunteers have attended training. In addition, we have hired two additional playground supervisors for the primary playtime.

The completed mid-year progress report is available on line or hard copies are available in the office.

<http://schools.bvsd.org/communitymontessori/>

BVSD Parent Snapshot Surveys coming in February (online) and March (mailed)

BVSD surveys students, parents and staff each year in order to gather information that can be used to guide efforts to improve schools. The survey of parents is called the “Parent Snapshot Survey” and parents will be receiving it in the next few weeks. We hope all parents and guardians will take a moment to complete and return this survey. The more parents who participate, the more accurately the survey data will reflect parents’ perceptions and opinions. The survey results are reviewed by school staff to determine what programs and processes are working and which ones need improvement. Consequently, the survey results can have a significant impact on school operations.

Again this year, the Parent Snapshot Survey will be administered online for all parents who have provided an email address to their student’s school and who receive all communication in English. This supports a greener and more cost effective process by reducing the amount of paper used, mailing cost, and data entry required. We also hope this will increase the parent participation rate. Online surveys will be sent by email in February.

If there is not an email address associated to your household or if your primary language is Spanish, you will receive a survey via U.S. postal service consistent with last year. Paper surveys will be mailed at the beginning of March.

Because the same survey has been given for several years, school staff and School Accountability Committees are able to study trends and patterns in responses. All of this information helps schools serve you in the best way possible.



PERSONAL GIVING CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Thank you!! We made another huge jump in January and are now at \$15,197 or 51% of our goal! We really do appreciate all your support. Currently 30% of our families have contributed, and our goal is 100% participation. Please do what you can.

Our next milestone is to reach 60% of our dollar goal (\$18,000) by the end of February. We just need \$2800 this month to hit that. The PGC team will be reaching out again on a direct level for a friendly reminder.

To donate, please drop off or send your check to office: Community Montessori, Attn: PGC, 805 Gillaspie, Boulder CO 80305. If you have any questions about the PGC or how to donate, please contact Denice Choka at denice.choka@leanintree.com, or Rosa Invernizzi 720 561-3721 (Bi-lingual liaison). Thank you for your support.

Tamales for the PGC Many of our Latino parents will be gathering on Saturday February 26th to make and sell tamales in support of the PGC for Community Montessori. These families are donating the proceeds from their sales. There will be some additional tamales available for sale on Monday, February 28th at the school. They are \$12 per dozen on a first-come-first-serve basis while they last! . Please see Rosa on Monday, February 26th to purchase tamales. Please have exact amount of cash or check, payable to CMPTA. Thank you for your support of our Personal Giving Campaign!

February / March CSAP Tests Are Coming...



The CSAP tests began on February 15th with 3rd Grade Reading.

CSAP testing will resume on Monday, February 28th. February/March CSAP testing will include two sessions each of Math and Writing for 3rd grade students. 5th graders will also begin on Monday, February 28th with three sessions of Math, followed by three sessions each of Reading, Writing, and Science. 4th graders begin their CSAP tests on Tuesday, March 1st, with three sessions each of Reading, Writing and Math. Parents of students in CSAP grades will receive more information about the Reading, Writing, Math, and Science tests in the classroom newsletters.

The district expects to receive the 3rd grade Reading results in early May. CSAP results from all February/March testing will arrive in late August. Parents will receive all CSAP results directly from the school.

CSAP results for the school are reported in late July or early August. While these tests are important, they are only one way in which we measure our students' achievement and the success of our school. Teachers' daily observations tell us more about the progress that each child is making. CSAP tests and other external tests are an additional way of measuring achievement that can offer information about our progress and areas to improve.



MUSIC CLASS NEWS



MARIMBA ENSEMBLE

Students in 3rd, 4th & 5th grades are invited to participate in the first Marimba Ensemble at Community Montessori! The focus of the ensemble will be marimba pieces from Zimbabwe which are very lively and energetic pieces of music! If your child loves to play xylophones, marimbas, drums and other percussion instruments, they will love being part of this ensemble.

Meetings will be on Tuesday mornings, beginning February 15, at 7:30 AM, and continue on February 22, March 1, March 8, March 15, April 5, April 12, April 19 and April 26. There will be a culminating performance on April 26 in conjunction with the Lower Elementary music performance celebrating Earth Day.

LOWER ELEMENTARY MUSIC PERFORMANCES

The Lower Elementary classes will be performing songs, dances and instrumental pieces in celebration of Earth Day on Tuesday, April 26 during the school day. The schedule of performances are as follows:

8:30 Christina, Jenny & Sarah C's classes

9:30 Sarah O. & Holly's classes

Please mark your calendars!!

Our school can earn up to \$20,000 per year from the Box Tops you clip!

1. Go to <http://www.boxtops4education.com> to find a list of participating products or look for the Box Tops logo on products at the grocery store.
2. Ask family and friends to collect for you, or set up a collection box at work.
3. Bring your Box Tops to school and put them in the collection jar on the information table outside the office.
4. We submit collected Box Tops twice a year in October & February.

Please bring in your Box Tops by **Friday February 25th!**



UPDATES



- ☞ **SchoolMessenger** – Hopefully, you all received a phone call and/or email last week re: the parent meeting on February 10th. That was our first school-wide communication using the *SchoolMessenger* system. You will be receiving the *Buzz* and other important notices via this system from now on. Please contact Kathy at 720-561-3704 if you are experiencing difficulties or have questions regarding this communication system. Thank you!
- ☞ Please see the attached **Chess Club** sign-up sheet for grades 3rd – 5th.
- ☞ **Missing--please check** to see if these boots accidentally made it to your classroom or home: Girls boots--a dark brown suede, mid-calf with a zipper and (I think) a gold buckle. They are from Gymboree and a size 12. If found, return to **Sarah Christian's** room. Thank you.
- ☞ **Attendance Line – 720-561-5408** – please call this number by 9:00 AM when calling your child in late or absent. We thank you for your calls and ask that you do not use the main office number for attendance reporting.
- ☞ **Seeking volunteer opportunities for your child or teen?** The Volunteer Connection of Boulder County provides a Youth Connection Guide online at http://www.volunteerconnection.net/db/2011_youthguide.pdf that is filled with volunteer jobs for kids of all ages. Issues that volunteers can work for include animals and pets, education, the environment, community, social action, and many more. For more information contact the Volunteer Connection at 303-444-4904 or visit their website at www.volunteerconnection.net.
- ☞ **BVSD Superintendent Chris King Announces Public Budget Forums for 2011-2012 BVSD Budget Input**
BOULDER, CO – Boulder Valley School District Superintendent Chris King announced the schedule for five BVSD public budget forums throughout BVSD beginning Monday, February 7 and ending Tuesday, March 8. The purpose of these forums is to update and consult interested residents about the development of the preliminary 2011-2012 BVSD annual budget. Under state law, a balanced 2011-2012 BVSD annual budget must be approved. All interested residents are invited to attend.
- The 2011-2012 BVSD public budget forum schedule is as follows:
- Boulder Public Library, George Reynolds Branch, 3595 Table Mesa Drive, Boulder Tuesday, February 15
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
 - Mamie Dowd Eisenhower Library, 3 Community Park Road, Broomfield Wednesday, February 23
10:30 AM – 12:30 PM
 - Nederland Elementary School, 1 Sundown Trail, Nederland Wednesday, February 23
6:00 – 8:00 PM
 - Lafayette Public Library, 775 West Baseline Road, Lafayette Tuesday, March 8
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- ☞ Attached is the **PEN**-sponsored parenting column. The article is provided in both English and Spanish. These parenting columns are also posted on the BVSD website at <http://bvsd.org/parents/Pages/articles.aspx>.
- ☞ Please use the following link to access the **Thrive Newsletter**:
<http://bvsd.org/schools/communitymontessori/newsevents/Pages/ThriveParentCorps.aspx> or if you prefer, you can use the direct link from the BVSD site:
<http://bvsd.org/parents/Pages/ThriveNewsletter.aspx>
- ☞ **BVSD Lifelong Learning Classes for Kids at Community Montessori**
No School: Art Play on February 25th In-service Day Ages 7-11
Friday February 25 8am-4 pm \$89
Spring Break: Art Camp Ages 6-8
Mon-Thu Mar 21-24 9am-Noon \$135
Spring Break: Art Camp Ages 9-12
Mon-Thu Mar 21-24 1:30-4:30 pm
Please register and view complete class details at www.bvsd.org/LLL, or call 720-561-3768.